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Similarly, he points out in another connection, that Mr. Seebohm's stress laid upon the "balk" or division between the acre strips is exaggerated. Such a division being by no means universal in modern open fields, and disproved for earlier times by the curving lines of adjacent strips. It is inconceivable that these edges would have become curved if the strips of arable ground had been separated by a permanent border of turf. This constant combination of the practical out-of-door suggestion with the learned results of work in the study, is one of the most pleasant as it is one of the most valuable features of the book. The demonstration that the so-called Saxon house is a survival of the Celtic form which the Teutonic invaders found on the soil between the Weser and the Rhine, and that the Scandinavian and East German type of dwelling-house is strikingly similar to the early Greek type, and probably modeled after it, are good instances of this characteristic.

The whole book is indeed a storehouse of information on its subject, carefully examined, clearly explained, generally illustrated, and systematically set forth. It is, moreover, the nearest that we yet have to an authoritative general treatment of the subject. All students of economic history, therefore, owe to Professor Meitzen and to his publishers, a debt of gratitude for this full presentation of his ripened knowledge, and for the liberal reproduction of maps, charts and views which would otherwise be absolutely inaccessible.

E. P. CHEYNEY.

University of Pennsylvania.

Cours d'Économie Politique. By VILFREDO PARETO, Professeur à l'Université de Lausanne. Vol. I. Pp. 430. 1896. Vol. II. Pp. 426. 1897. Lausanne: F. Rouge.

Professor Pareto's purpose in these volumes is to give a sketch of economics considered as a natural science, founded upon facts. The two ideas dominating the entire work are the possibility of successive approximations, and the mutual dependence of economic and social phenomena. The first volume containing the principles of pure political economy, along with a study of *capitiaux personnels*, *mobiliers* and *fonçiers*, furnishes the first approximation of economic phenomena, that is, the general conditions of economic equilibrium, and becomes the point of departure for successive approximations with which the greater part of volume one, and the whole of volume two are concerned. The second volume, following the fundamental idea of the interdependence of economic and social phenomena, opens with an exposition of the general principles of social evolution,

and treats, in succession, of production, exchange, economic crises, the distribution and consumption of wealth.

The work is to be strongly commended for the sketch it gives of Italian economic literature; the incidental contributions to economic history and the history of economic theory contained in its voluminous foot-notes; the consummate skill with which use is made of statistics as premises, illustrations and tests of theories; the fidelity with which are wrought out the two fundamental ideas of the work, already alluded to, and the brilliant statistical and mathematical investigations into the distribution and consumption of wealth with which it closes.

The study of the distribution of wealth is probably the most original and suggestive part of the work. Professor Pareto makes the discovery that the equation to the curve indicating the distribution of incomes among the individuals of a country is $N = \frac{A}{x^a}$ where A and a are constants, x the value of any income, and N the number of persons having incomes above the value of x . Or, to be more explicit, if we construct a system of rectangular axes and lay off upon the axis of abscissas the logarithms of x , and upon the axis of ordinates the logarithms of N , the line passing through the points thus determined will be a straight line whose equation is

$$\log. N = \log. A - a \log. x.$$

I shall point out only one interesting property of this line. It is discovered that the lines of distribution of various nations are almost parallel, or, in other words, that the quantity a , representing the inclination upon the axis of x , is almost the same for all countries. Consequently if the distribution of incomes varies but little in different countries, different epochs, and different organizations, the principal cause of such distribution must be found in the nature of man—a valuable truth for hasty reformers to learn. Professor Pareto makes still further interesting studies of the curve in relation to socialism, pauperism, and the curves of demand and supply.

It would seem that the chief defect in the work lies where one would least expect. The author claims to be an eclectic in method, to use history, philology, biology, and mathematics wherever they can throw light on his subject. This would be the ideal method if, when treating any question, the author would exhaust all special methods, but it is confusing and unsatisfactory when, for example, a subject that is peculiarly in need of deductive treatment is treated historically alone. The author's discussion of coalitions is an illustration of this defect in method. This difficult subject is a special problem in the field of monopoly value, the very field in which the mathematical method has achieved its first and greatest success. An exhaustive

mathematical treatment would therefore be expected of a mathematical economist. But instead of this, we have in the part on "Pure Political Economy" a "first approximation" treated mathematically, while, in the "Applied Political Economy," the greater part of the discussion is devoted to a history of monopolies among the ancients and in the Middle Ages.

Objection may also be made to Professor Pareto's frequently unnecessary and confusing use of mathematics. In his first book, he develops the formula for the exchange of commodities by differentiating a second equation that is absolutely unintelligible to a reader unfamiliar with a fuller discussion of the formula in some such work as that of Walras. After making the complex development, he points out that substantially the same results might be obtained without the use of the differential calculus. Professor Pareto cannot expect to reconcile his non-mathematical reader with this method of confusing him by telling him (§56) that, if he does not understand the mathematical explanations, he will have all the advantage in learning the language in which they are given!

A curious slip for a mathematical economist is made in the discussion of population, a slip that parallels the error of Malthus. In the "Essay on Population," Malthus bases his theory on the supposition that population tends to increase in a geometrical, while subsistence increases in an arithmetical, progression. Pareto discusses the question of population as treated by Malthus. He reviews the growth of population in England between certain years and finds that it has increased in geometrical progression. But he finds also that the average income of the individual has *increased* during these years. He therefore argues

"il s'en suit que pendant ce laps de temps la richesse a augmenté en une progression plus rapide qu'une progression géométrique; ce qui suffit pour démontrer que la proposition de Malthus, suivant laquelle la richesse croîtrait en progression arithmétique, est erronée, au moins dans ce cas." p. 112.

Malthus, seeing that subsistence did not increase as rapidly as population, when population increased in a geometrical progression with a common ratio 2, assumes that it does not increase in a geometrical, but increases in an arithmetical progression. Pareto, seeing that in England, during certain years, *average* subsistence increased, while population increased in a geometrical progression with a low common ratio, assumes that, therefore, subsistence does not increase in arithmetical progression. But if we assume that the value of subsistence of a community is A, the population B, the common ratio of increase of population $\frac{m}{n}$ then, if the value of subsistence of a community increases in an arithmetical progression, whose common difference is

the $\frac{m+x}{n}$ part of A, where x is any positive quantity, the condition that Pareto describes will be fulfilled—population will increase in geometrical progression, subsistence in arithmetical progression, the average income of the individual will, for a time, increase.

H. L. MOORE.

Johns Hopkins University.

The History of Mankind. By Professor FRIEDRICH RATZEL. Translated from the second German edition by A. J. BUTLER, M. A. With introduction by E. B. TYLOR, D. C. L., F. R. S. With colored plates, maps and illustrations. Vol. I. Pp. xxiv, 486. Price, \$4.00. London and New York: The Macmillan Company, 1896.

Under this somewhat strange title Professor Ratzel's justly celebrated "*Völkerkunde*" is now appearing in a handsome English edition, on the whole admirably translated by Mr. A. J. Butler.

In introducing Professor Ratzel to his English-speaking public, Professor Tylor first calls our attention to the excellent illustrations so carefully collected by the author, and then taking the facts of savage life therein depicted as his text, he urges upon us the "habit of constant recourse to actual objects" as of "inestimable use to us in the more abstract investigation of ideas," a salutary lesson, indeed, to those who are too prone to rely on legal symbols and the incidence of terms to support their sociological theories.

Professor Ratzel's greatest service to the science of anthropology (taken in its broadest sense) seems to me to consist in laying a broad geographical foundation for the subsequent study of ethnography and sociology. It is in the "*Völkerkunde*" that the good results of this method are most manifest, for this is the basic plan of the work. At the very outset of the present volume the author says: "We shall therefore bestow a thorough consideration upon the external surroundings of the various races, and endeavor *pari passu* to trace the historical development of the circumstances in which we find them to-day. The geographical conceptions of their surroundings, and the historical consideration of their development, will thus go hand in hand. It is only from a combination of the two that a just estimate can be formed."

The geography of the Pacific islands forms the basis of the present volume, and its ethnographic conclusions concerning them seem to me to be well founded and of great importance. Race classifications are, indeed, difficult and, except in broad divisions, perhaps impossible. Taking his theoretical stand on the unity of the human race, Professor Ratzel, however, recognizes the broad ethnographic dis-